



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

CHRIS KOSTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. Box 899
(573) 751-3321

January 27, 2015

The Honorable Tom Dempsey
State Senator, District 23
State Capitol, Room 326
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear President Pro Tem Dempsey:

In the last several years, and particularly since the events last fall in St. Louis County, an increased interest has arisen regarding law enforcement officers' use of body-worn cameras to record their interactions with the public.

I join with those who believe that body-worn cameras can improve transparency and accountability by offering law enforcement and the public additional and important information regarding their interactions.

However, I strongly support law enforcement's position that the implementation of body-worn cameras first requires amendments to Missouri's Sunshine Law.

Currently, Missouri's Sunshine Law provides news media and entertainment producers nearly unfettered access to videos from body-worn cameras. Adoption of body-worn cameras must not lead to a new era of voyeurism and entertainment television at the expense of Missourians' privacy.

Therefore, I urge you to consider amendments updating Chapter 610 to protect such video footage from those who would monetize it or use it to exploit the people it depicts. I trust in this legislature's ability to make good and conservative decisions in this regard, and I urge you to begin this process so that your work is completed this spring.

The Honorable Tom Dempsey
Page 2

Widespread adoption of body-worn cameras can offer clarity regarding law enforcement encounters with the public and enhance public safety. We must, however, listen to the serious and legitimate concerns of the law enforcement community that looks to us for responsible leadership in deployment of such technology.

My office, as always, stands willing to assist you in the drafting of such legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance in this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Koster", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CHRIS KOSTER
Attorney General